

July 21, 2011

South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

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DEPARTMENT STAFF TO SPEAK TO MENTAL HEALTH GROUP

David Wells, veterans service officer with the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, will be one of the keynote speakers at the National Alliance on Mental Illness conference in Sioux Falls. The NAMI conference will be held Monday, July 25, at the Avera Living Well Center Community Room (33rd and Minnesota) from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

NAMI is an education and support organization for individuals with a mental illness, as well as their families.

Dave's presentation will focus on the benefits that are available to veterans. He will also outline some of the resources that are currently available to veterans and their families.

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NAMI
National Alliance on Mental Illness

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Find Your Local NAMI

Find Your State & Local NAMI

NAMI has a state organization in all 50 states as well as in Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. There are also more than 1,200 local affiliates spanning all 50 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico. To continue, click on a state or territory on the map, or enter the two-letter abbreviation of your state below.

Enter State Abbreviation:

The NAMI organization operates at the local, state and national levels. Each level of the organization provides support, education, information and referral and advocacy. Local affiliates and state organizations identify and work on issues most important to their community and state. Individual membership and the extraordinary work of hundreds of thousands of volunteer leaders is the lifeblood of NAMI's local affiliates and state organizations. The national office, under the direction of an elected Board of Directors, provides strategic direction to the entire organization, support to NAMI's state and affiliate members, governs the NAMI corporation, and engages in advocacy, education and leadership development nationally.

- Learn more about NAMI's local, state and national organizations
- Education, training and support programs at the state and local level

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VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS CAN RECEIVE FREE CEREMONIAL AMMUNITION

The Joint Munitions Command provides blank ammunition and clips to American Legion posts, Veterans of Foreign Wars posts, Disabled American Veterans chapters, as well as other veterans' organizations free of charge, to perform military funeral honors, parades, and other events.

To order and receive the blank ammunition and/or clips, the organization must first have weapons issued through the ceremonial rifle program at the US Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command in Warren, Mich. Organizations that use privately owned weapons or borrow weapons are not eligible to receive ammunition in this program. Only organization officers can request the blank ammunition and/or clips.

Accepted organizations can receive one or two boxes of ammunition per request. The use of ammunition obtained from sources other than JMC is prohibited, as it may result in damage to the rifle. More importantly, it could cause harm or serious injury to the user.

Joint Munitions Command is the Department of Defense's expert in ammunition. The blank ammunition is produced at JMC's Lake City Army Ammunition Plant in Independence, Mo. The plant makes more than one billion rounds of small arms ammunition for the US military, other government agencies, and NATO allies each year, including all types of 5.56 mm, 7.62 mm and .50-caliber ammunition.

Providing ammunition for ceremonies is a traditional mission for JMC. Since the end of World War II, the Army has been supplying ceremonial ammunition to veterans' organizations to conduct military honors for their fallen comrades.

The ceremonial rifle and ammunition program is conducted in accordance with Title 10, United States Code § 4683 (as implemented by Army Regulation 700-131).

To learn more about the ceremonial ammunition program, contact JMC at 877-233-2515 or by e-mail at ROCK-JMC-CeremonialAmmoRequests@conus.army.mil.

For more information about the ceremonial rifle program, contact DAMI_Donations@conus.army.mil or visit



SOUTH DAKOTA TO HOST 9/11 FLAG



This August South Dakotans will have a unique opportunity to pay tribute to those lost on September 11, 2001, by participating in the "Patriot Flag—Honor and Remember" tour. The 38' by 58' American flag, known as the "Patriot Flag," will arrive in South Dakota on August 8 and will be on display in Sturgis at the Buffalo Chip August 8-13.

The Pierre ceremony will be held on Sunday, August 14, at the Capitol Lake at 1:00 pm and will include an invocation, raising of the patriotic flag and a tribute to the Armed Forces, First Responders, Second Responders, the 9/11 Families and the Fallen of the Attacks on America.

The cross country tour of the "Patriot Flag" in all fifty states began in San Diego on August 10, 2011. After touring all 50 states, with Pierre being the final city to host a flag-raising event, the flag will then travel as a memorial tribute to the three 9/11 sites: Shanksville, PA; World Trade Center, New York City; and the Pentagon in Arlington County, VA. The flag will also make a stop at Fort McHenry, Maryland the site at which Francis Scott Key wrote the inspirational poem "Defense of Fort McHenry" which later became our National Anthem.



"There is no country in the world that has ever done it better than the United States of America. And there are 9,240 airports in this country where there are planes that can take you to any other country if you think there is some place better." - Joe Torrillo, retired New York City firefighter that was in the World Trade Center when it collapsed.



EXTREME MAKEOVER AND FIRST LADY PAIR UP TO ASSIST FEMALE VETERANS

First lady Michelle Obama will be joining the crew of “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” and a North Carolina non-profit to help build a boarding house for homeless female veterans.

The building project will benefit the women of the Steps & Stages Jubilee House in Fayetteville. Several families will be able to live in the new two-story house, which will include a resource center, according to the Associated Press.

Barbara Marshall, a 15-year Navy veteran, spearheads Steps & Stages, Inc., a non-profit that provides transitional housing and permanent housing for women veterans.

According to the VA, women veterans will be about 10 percent of the veteran population by 2020.

The first lady is participating in the project as part of Joining Forces, a program that supports service members and their families. Construction workers and volunteers have been working on the Steps & Stages Jubilee House project since July 14, according to The Fayetteville Observer.

The *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* is a reality show that helps families and community groups across the United States who need building projects, homes, and other facilities that they would not otherwise be able to afford. Local businesses and the general community are usually brought on to help with the project. The show, on for several seasons, is hosted by former model and carpenter Ty Pennington. The “Extreme Makeover” episode featuring the first lady will air in October.



GUARD STANDING OVER HEROS



Photo taken from the Minneapolis Star Tribune on a June morning at Ft Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 20— 10th Annual Sioux Falls VA Health Care System Cruise Night—5:30 pm.

August 17—Veterans Job Fair—Sioux Falls VFW—10:00 am.

August 19—Stand Down at Ft Thompson Community Center—10:00 am.

August 29-31— VSO Annual Benefits School—Pierre Ramkota Hotel.

September 11—Patriot Day.

ABERLE EMBARKS ON NEW JOURNEY

Eileen Aberle, executive and technology assistant for the South Dakota Department of the Military and the Department of Veterans Affairs, has accepted a position with the South Dakota Department of Revenue as the executive assistant for Secretary Andy Gerlach and Deputy Secretary David Wiest.

Eileen's last day with the Department is July 22.

Harriet Tubman once said, "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

Eileen, thanks for reaching for the stars while working for the Department. Your talents and expertise will be missed. Best of luck.

"Never lose sight of the fact that the most important yardstick of your success will be how you treat other people—your family, your friends, coworkers and even strangers you meet along the way." - Barbara Bush



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